



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Cranfield

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

& DIARY

August 2021

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www.cranfieldchurch.org

www.hulcotewithsalford

churches.co.uk

or on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/

cranfieldchurch

More divisive than Brexit?

Some social commentators have warned that with the arrival of so-called 'Freedom Day' the decision to mask or not mask has the potential to become even more divisive and polarising than Brexit. But if the church is, to some degree, to reflect the wider community, we should expect both views to be represented within the Church. For, whilst it is the case that the Church must remain united in faithfully holding to all that the Scriptures teach, we should also expect it to reflect diverse opinions on matters that Scripture does not directly address.

This all begs the question: how then can we as a Church family ensure that we continue to support, bear with, and love one another when we differ on such issues?

The first century Church grappled with this question. Paul in Romans writes at length on various debates within the Church at Rome which, though not incidental, were not deemed to be of central importance to the faith. For example, it's one thing to have a theological bust up about whether Jesus really is God and really died and rose again, but quite another thing to have one over when we should celebrate Easter. One is of central importance to our faith, the other not so.

So, what did Paul command the Church on these matters and how can it help guide us? One of the debates was over whether Christians were free to eat food that was considered ritually 'unclean'. And Paul wrote: "I am convinced that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love." In other words: I know I'm free to eat what I like, but if my brother or sister in conscience holds the opposite view then I am happy to lay down my freedom in order not to be a stumbling block to them. Paul's willingness to lay down his freedoms for his brothers and sisters is a small picture of Christ who laid down his all for us.

Now, of course, these short verses don't answer all of our questions, we'd need more than a few short paragraphs to do that, but they do show us the way to go forwards together in both diversity and love. Later Christians would attempt to sum up Paul's teaching as: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity."

Rev. Isaac Pain

DIARY FOR AUGUST 2021

Day	Time	Service/Event	Venue
Sunday 1st	9:00am 10:30am	Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Baptism) followed by Prayer Meeting	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Friday 6th	7:30pm	Home Group via Zoom – Contact Linda Pearson <i>(l.d.pearson@btinternet.com – Tel. 751358)</i>	Zoom
Saturday 7th	11:00am 3:00pm	Renewal of Wedding Vows Service Renewal of Wedding Vows Service	Cranfield Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 8th	9:00am 10.30am	Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Holy Communion)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 15th	9:00am 10.30am	Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service	Salford Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 22nd	9:00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer - 1662 Prayer Book Morning Service (with Holy Communion)	Hulcote Church Cranfield Church
Sunday 29th	10:30am 6:00pm	Morning Service Evensong - 1662 Prayer Book	Cranfield Church Hulcote Church
Monday 30th	1:00pm	Wedding – Josh and Ella	Cranfield Church

MOTTO 2021 “These were written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:31